

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

Published Every Morning in the Year by
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY.Publication Office:
714 FIFTEENTH STREET NORTHWEST.Entered as second-class matter, October 3, 1893,
at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under act
of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Telephone Main 3308. (Private Branch Exchange.)

Subscription Rates by Carrier or Mail:
Daily and Sunday.....30 cents per month
Daily and Sunday.....\$6.00 per year
Daily, without Sunday.....40 cents per month
Daily, without Sunday.....\$4.80 per yearNo attention will be paid to anonymous
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newspaper, whether for the daily or the
Sunday issue, should be addressed to
THE WASHINGTON HERALD.New York Representative, SMITH-WILSON
SPECIAL AGENT, Tribune Building.
Chicago Representative, CHARLES A. BARNARD,
Boyes Building.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1908.

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MR. TAFT'S ACCEPTANCE.

The Republican party's chief hope
of success in the present controversy must
rest on the confidence which the people
of the country have in the sincerity of
the party's declaration in its platform
that it intends to continue the (Roosevelt)
policies.This statement comes from William
Howard Taft, Republican candidate for
President of the United States. It is the
keystone of his speech, or letter of ac-
ceptance. It states the truth.If the people of this country are con-
vinced, or if they become convinced, of
the sincerity of the party's declara-
tion as to the Roosevelt policies; if they
believe, or are led to believe, that
there is to be no turning backward after
March 4 next; if they make up their
minds in the next three months that the
reactionary element over which Roosevelt
steadily has triumphed, but which
even now is dominant in the party's lead-
ership, will not regain sway when he re-
tires from the White House, then William
Howard Taft will be elected President of
the United States.It rests with Mr. Taft, and he wisely
sees it, to convince the country that, if he
be chosen, the "quickened conscience" of
the people, which "brought on a moral
awakening among them that boded well
for the future," is not to be disre-
garded or trifled with—and certainly he
made headway in that direction yester-
day in his speech of acceptance.It is not a deliverance that thrills the
reader with the forcefulness of its rhet-
oric. Taft is not, it is needless to say, a
Roosevelt or Root or Hughes or William
Jennings Bryan in strength or cleverness
of expression. As a whole, his accept-
ance is prosy in text, lumbering heavy
and judicial in its treatment of topics,
utterly devoid of epigrams, and inordin-
ately long. Tiresome to read, it never-
theless will repay the reading, for clearly
it is the work of a candid, outspoken
candidate, who would have the country
know precisely where he stands.Obviously, William Howard Taft, in his
belief in the Roosevelt policies, is sincere,
whatever the country may decide as to
his party. Temperamentally the antithesis
of the man whom he would succeed, wholly
unlike him in make-up and in mode of
thought and speech, he yet stands unquali-
fiedly for Rooseveltism, and, thus, so far as
he is master of the Republican situation,
promptly attunes his candidacy to that
progressive or radical sentiment of the
land which, sure as fate, whether we like
it or not, will be powerful enough to control
the national election in November.Of the wisdom of Mr. Taft's plans for
dealing with the Roosevelt policies, to the
continuance of which he commits himself
fully and finally, there will naturally be
differences of opinion. The corporations
affected, however, doubtless will pin their
faith to his judicial training and temper-
ament, and assuredly find comfort in the
promise held out that ways and means
will be found by which "the high level
of business integrity and obedience to the
law which (Roosevelt) has established may
be maintained, and departures from it
restrained without undue interference
with legitimate business."The remainder of the long speech, em-
bracing a discussion of various govern-
mental problems from the Republican
viewpoint, gives no new aspect to any
campaign issue. He concludes with an
appeal for the continued support of those
Independent Democrats whose votes in
Presidential campaigns since 1896 have
contributed so largely to swell Republi-
can majorities the country over, but
who, in this year of grace 1908, find the
platforms of the two great parties closely
akin and the candidates themselves
practically agreed as to the thing upper-
most in the American mind—Rooseveltism.Verily, we have come upon strange
things! What has this "moral awak-
ening," this political evolution, wrought?"What has become of that Georgia sun-
shine brigade?" inquires a Cracker con-
temporary. Speaking from the outside,
we suspect it has resolved itself into a
"moonshine" brigade."The old roster was too sure of him-
self," says a sporting writer about a re-centistic performance on the part of
Col. Robert Fitzsimmons. That's what
you might call cocksure, we imagine.Most candidates would rather not be
right than get left.

Mr. Watson and Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Thomas E. Watson, candidate for
the Presidency, and general all-around
political cut-up, has been forced to the
tail timber in his silly fight against Mr.
Bryan, because of an imaginary hostility
toward the old Confederate soldiers on
the part of that latter gentleman. Repu-
table witnesses have exploded all of Mr.
Watson's stories.Curiously enough, however, it has de-
veloped that Mr. Watson, who was a can-
didate for Speaker of the House at the
time Mr. Crisp was elected, voted for
himself! Mr. Bryan voted in caucus for
Mr. Springer—on the floor for Mr. Crisp.People who live in glass houses
shouldn't throw stones; and Mr. Watson,
with the record of having voted for him-
self, was not in shipshape to rail against
anybody for voting as the said anybody
may have been conscientiously inclined.No doubt, however, Mr. Watson is a
ready gory he spoke as he did concern-
ing the Democratic nominee—a gentleman
cordially hated by Mr. Watson, and of
whom he is, and has for years been, in-
ordinately jealous. Mr. Crisp was Mr.
Watson's immediate colleague; they were
natives of the same State. Mr. Watson
was elected to Congress as a Democrat
and bolted out of the traces as soon as
he was sworn in. He owed allegiance to
Mr. Crisp, if anybody did. But he voted
for Mr. Watson—and was invited not to
return to Congress by his constituents.Mr. Watson is an able man—a very able
man—and all who have followed his car-
eer and work admit the fact. But Mr.
Watson is also a curiosity, if not a
freak, politically.Our fleet of battle ships isn't making
any more fuss on the way home than
Senator Stone is making in his race for
re-election to the Senate.

The Girl Without a Hat.

We do not know—we almost fear to
hope—whether it is the setting in of a
new fashion, this charming custom of
girls going about hatless, but, if it is,
let us welcome it with exceeding joy.
She is becoming ubiquitous, this girl
without a hat, and in the street or on
the street car, in the parks, wherever
she may be, she adds beauty to the land-
scape and picturesque to the view.More welcome, too, will the new-old
custom of the fair sex be if one of its
results is the detroning of that awful
monstrosity, the "Merry Widow" hat,
that dire shape of straw that mows a
swath of discomfort through our thor-
oughfares and which has added to the
burdens of a torrid summer. Let us
hope that the new style of feminine
headgear has come about through
female recognition of the eternal verity
of the poet who declared that the crown-
ing glory of a woman is her hair. It
is better to look upon a thousand
times, than either the mannish-looking
"sailor" or the crushed strawberry com-
binations of fuff and feathers that so
many girls disgrace themselves with.
Let the girls remember how true the
couplet of Pope:"Fair tresses man's imperial crown excels,
And beauty draws us with a single hair."It may be that the girls who are braving
convention, declaring their freedom
from the thralls of the milliner, and
making life more beautiful by discard-
ing their hats, need encouragement. For
heaven's sake let us all get together and
praise the sex for its good sense. We
should say, at a rough estimate, that
the matrimonial chances of the girl with-
out a hat, as against the girl with a
"Merry Widow," were at least a hun-
dred to one, and that should help some,
if its truth can be proved. All hail to
the sensible American girl and her crown
of glorious hair. May the sunbeams
kiss it into more perfect beauty; may
the gentle winds tease it into more
graceful curves! A bas les chapeaux!"The man who defeated John Wesley
Gaines is very ugly," says a Tennessee
contemporary. Not only that, but we sus-
pect he has a mean disposition.

Practical Religion.

This is a practical age. It is an age
that has learned to take account of
things by results; and theories, merely
as theories, are being discredited. No-
where is the tendency of the times more
manifest than in religious matters, for
the churches are leaving the theoretical
for the working practical basis and they
demand to see results just as insistently
as do commercial enterprises. We are
moved to these remarks by the state-
ment recently made by Dr. Aked, pastor
of Mr. Rockefeller's church in New York,
who said:"The church which has nothing to say to social
problems has no right to claim to exist.
Soon, if not long, the face of the earth,
it will remain only as the refuge of the
lifer, the miser, and the coward. We may be
thankful for the promise of many mansions in
the sky, but the gospel of today demands better homes
below, and better men and women in them. We
may contemplate with poetic rapture the
pearly gates and golden streets, but they must not fill
our minds that we have no thought for the
meanest, dirtiest, religion is not a thing of the stars,
but of the streets."And this is a true utterance, and we are
glad to believe that the tendency of reli-
gious endeavor to-day is all toward the
ideal set forth by Dr. Aked. Religion at
its highest teaches us that our greatest
duty on earth is toward our fellow-man;
so that by having high ideals ourselves
we may lift our fellows to the heights.
Religious faith is a fine thing and a
great power, but it is true now—perhaps
truer in our day than ever before—that
"faith without works is dead."In this day and age we find it hard
to understand some of the anomalies of
our civilization; how, for instance, the
authorities of rich Trinity Church in
New York can be content to use the
money—no matter for how worthy a pur-
pose—wrung from the rentals of horrible
tenements that are a disgrace to Chris-
tianity. Much more, in this material
day, can we do for our fellow-man by
pointing him not to the "pearly gates"
and the "streets paved with gold," but
by helping him to cleanliness in this
world, cleanliness of city, cleanliness of
body, cleanliness of mind and heart. It
is better, in other words, to live worthilythan it is to die worthily. That, we
think, is the ultimate message that re-
ligion has for our times.Curiously enough, the almighty professors
who indulge the most in hot air fly the
least.

Automobile Nuisances.

Automobiles emitting obnoxious smoke
and gases are to be excluded from the
parks and park driveways in New York.
Why should not such machines be
barred from the streets of Washington
absolutely?Much has been heard about the smoke
nuisance here in the past. Happily, this
is now reduced to a minimum. But the
Capital has been singularly patient and
long suffering in the matter of automo-
bile nuisances. Half the charm of even-
ing rides or drives is destroyed by the
presence in the streets and parks of ma-
chines that smell to heaven. Poul orders
are left in their wake. The smoke that
they emit is offensive enough, but the
gases are intolerably obnoxious.Many of the automobiles that affront
the sanctity of this Capital, day and
night—foul-smelling, smoke-producing af-
fairs and ill-constructed, noisy juggen-
nauts—ought to be denied the use of the
streets and driveways absolutely. They
are public nuisances. How such con-
tinuances ever secured license to operate
in an enlightened, civilized community is
beyond comprehension. It is high time to
suppress them.Let Washington follow New York's ex-
ample at once. Public interest demands
it. The automobile industry itself will
profit by it.Action by the Board of District Com-
missioners is in order. It should not be
delayed.An antiseptic campaign fund is all
right in its way, no doubt, but an ante-
up campaign fund is what both parties
are really looking for."Who is Kern?" asks Mr. William El-
liott Corey. Most people will regard it as
quite complimentary to Mr. Kern that
Mr. Corey finds it necessary to make the
inquiry.A man named Zero was drowned in
Pennsylvania recently. Rather a sad
ending for a naughtily expedition, so to
speak!A physician says it is impossible to
over-eat. Doubtless he has reference to
the average man's income, however,
rather than his physical make-up.The truth has been stretched concern-
ing the "sheath gown," so a fashion
paper avers. A number of necks have
been abnormally stretched because of
it, too."A New York woman believed she
would die on the 18th of July, and be-
cause she didn't, she killed herself on
that date," says the Arizona Gazette.
But she did die on the 18th, after all,
didn't she?There appears to be an idea in some
quarters that the Olympic games were
really never intended to be mere skin
games.Ty Cobb is to marry, after which, we
suppose, it will be proper to refer to him
as Tied Cobb.An Indiana man swallowed a feather a
few days ago, and it was only by the
most heroic effort that his life was saved.
We presume he was almost tickled to
death."Police Commissioner Bingham will put
a stop to all unnecessary noises in New
York," says the Buffalo Times. If he
really does, we rather think we have
heard about the last of Bingham.Mr. Bryan can discover sixteen silver
things to every one cloud that the knock-
ers can find on the Democratic horizon.They are selling booze in walking can-
dles in Birmingham. It is said that
practically every man in that town has
developed a limp here of late.A Florida town has passed an ordi-
nance regulating the speed of airships
passing overhead. "Reform" is marching
on.Cincinnati proposes to stop spooning
in the parks thereabout. We judge from
this that Cincinnati is thinking of abol-
ishing its parks.An Ohio man has invented a machine
that will do away with typewriter girls.
That man's wife must be a cat.Mr. Taft's frankness reminds us of the
old adage, "who, when asked by the judge,
"Are you the defendant?" replied, "No,
indeed, boss; I've just the nigger what
stole the chickens."Birmingham proposes to have its near-
est analyzed. It is doubtful whether
the stuff will stand close inspection."A spinster is not always to be blamed
for her condition," says the Omaha Bee.
No, indeed; often she is to be congrat-
ulated.A legislator down South wants to abol-
ish flirting. That is what comes of sum-
mer sessions."Will Tom Watson get the electoral
vote of Georgia?" asks the Macon Tele-
graph. Yes; right where the chicken
got the ax.

Fooling Hubby.

That there are more ways than one of
"killing a cat" is a well-known fact, but
the newest of ways has been evolved from
the fertile brain of a German woman
who is blessed with a stingy husband.
This husband is generous enough in one
sense of the word. His wife may have the
best attire the stores afford, charged to
his account, but she may handle no
money. Women in this man's opinion,
know nothing of the value of a dollar.
On leaving for his office in the morning, he
kisses her good-by and thrusts a quarter's
worth of trolley tickets into her hand.
Now molly goes shopping, buys a few
necessaries and also a \$30 wrap for which
she has no use whatever. Next day she
returns the latter receives a credit slip
for \$30 and betakes herself to the hand-
kerchief counter, where she spends 50
cents, receiving \$30 change. Placing
some small change in her purse and stow-
ing the roll of greenbacks in what she
considers a safer receptacle, she leaves
the shop feeling that she has made the
best of a bad bargain.

The Cynical View.

From the Nashville American.

There is as much chattering over cam-
paign fund publicity as if it were a seri-
ous matter and expected to cut some
figure. Both parties will take and spend
what they grab and then wish they had
more.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

PUBLICITY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

Publicity for contributions is
The modern cry.
I'm very glad to set my heart and phiz
That way, say I.
And every person in the poetry biz
To help should try.Publicity for contributions, men,
is worth a fight.
We folk who earn a living by the pen
Should show our might!
For publishers would ever publish them
The things we write.

Very Smart.

"Was it a fashionable wedding?"
"Oh, extremely. The bride denied the
engagement right up to the altar, and
the groom had hired seven cameras to
smash."

His Plight.

"I see as how a certain mining expert
gets \$400,000 per month."
"And if I got the same salary," de-
clared a grouchy citizen, "I couldn't hold
out clear money without provoking a
violent row."

Well Met.

"Who are you?"
"I'm Peter. Who are you?"
"I'm Ague."
"Shake!"

Conth.

We've lots of warmth, indeed.
I vow.
Coolness is our greatest need
Just now.

Up Against It.

"These vacuum cleaners are going to
hurt the play-writing biz."
"As to how?"
"When housemaids become obsolete,
what are we going to do for subterfuges?"

They're Popular Now.

"How shall I tell your father of our
engagement?"
"He is interested in politics," suggested
the girl. "You'd better go as a notifica-
tion committee, and pass it off in that
way."

Her Comfort and Guile.

"Ask a man if it's raining, and he
looks out of the window to see."
"Do you mean to tell me that a woman
pursues a different course?"
"Yes; she looks in the paper."

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

And the Wrangle Among the
Novelists.

From a Letter by Zola, London Times.

The case of Mrs. Humphry Ward
has been the analytical curiosity of a
male novelist. Here is a woman who
has won exceptional distinction in the world
of literature and philanthropy, and yet
she is anxious, so far as Parliamentary
suffrage is concerned, to be classed with
minors, criminals, idiots, and lunatics.
This subject prostration before my sex re-
calls that of her own heroine before the
stern strong man (who, to a man, appear
priest, or the lawless nomads (who, to a
man, appear rogues). Her actual argu-
ments we need not take seriously (she
urges, for example, that women would
not use their votes, and in the same
breath that the female vote would bring
socialism dangerously nearer); it is the
psychology underlying her arguments that
is interesting.Now, strange to say, of course, lies in
Mrs. Ward's sex. As a woman novelist
she knows women too well, and despises
them for their weakness, their follies,
their capriciousness. Her actual argu-
ments we need not take seriously (she
urges, for example, that women would
not use their votes, and in the same
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socialism dangerously nearer); it is the
psychology underlying her arguments that
is interesting.The New York Tribune speaks thus of
the selection of a chairman for the Dem-
ocratic National Committee from New
York:Mr. Bryan is happy. He fairly ex-
claims at the thought that New York has
been kept debateable. Naturally. Every-
body in the Democratic councils was at
his wit's end to know what to do with
New York, when suddenly Mr. Bryan
thought of Mr. Mack, and the complete-
ness of the inspiration was recognized.
Not even by Mr. C. C. Conner, who re-
lations to those of Mr. Murphy to Mr.
Conner, of this city, Mr. Murphy and
Conner accept the inspiration. It is
being the easier to do so because
of Mr. Conner's full confidence that
Mr. Mack's ability to make political
situations doubtful of a State
wide and not at all of a local char-
acter."

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Will Be Cared For at Government
Printing Office.Legislators, students of historical and
social problems, and journalists will be
glad to know that a seven-story fireproof
annex to the old Government Printing Of-
fice in Washington will soon be occupied
by an invaluable library of 100,000 docu-
ments and maps belonging to the govern-
ment and in charge of the superintendent
of documents. Aware that there was to be
ample accommodations for his treasures,
this official has been engaged for the past
year in perfecting the files of this library
from documents sent from the depart-
ments. When the new house is entered,
the collection will be practically complete
back to and including the first ses-
sion of the Fifteenth Congress. Nation
and State waste much annually in pub-
lication of excessively large and expensive
editions of documents, but every effort
made to perfect collections of this litera-
ture, whether owned by academic or gov-
ernment agencies, deserves adequate
facilities.

Another Drink!

From the Los Angeles Express.

A death certificate was signed by the
coroner yesterday in the case of a de-
pendent man "who swallowed a quantity
of cyanide of potassium" and voluntarily
died a most painful death. The cause?
"He had been drinking and was morose
over domestic troubles." Drink creates
domestic troubles. There isn't a wife in
Los Angeles whose husband is a slave of
liquor who in her heavy heart doesn't
know that drink makes more misery in
the home than any other poison. Let us
strive against to overcome. Well, Chauncey
McCombs killed himself."What'll it be this time, gentlemen?"
A little more of the same—yes!"

In the Limelight.

From the New Bedford Standard.

Would the decent people of New York
State really like to have the country say
that they would let the gamblers defeat
Gov. Hughes for re-election?

RESIGNATION.

I ask no more than I may know
The way God laid for me.
I only ask that He shall show
My duty momentary.At first I sought with restless mind
To find the entry way,
But now I am content to find
My duty day by day.I am not idle, for it seems
That much on me depends,
But failing all my fondest dreams
I take what Heaven sends;Not always gladly, but resigned
I wait the Father's will,
Believing that though He be blind
He walks beside me still.

—Arthur W. Eaton.

POLITICAL COMMENT.

The New York Sun continues its attacks
on the President, and declares that in
arousing public sentiment in regard to
integrity in affairs he has by no means
rendered himself immune from criticism.
It says:"Granting without hesitation that it is
true that Mr. Roosevelt has aroused pub-
lic sentiment in respect to integrity in
affairs and that he has quickened the
public conscience by his regard to civic
morals, he is grievously mistaken if he
infers that in doing so he has established
any right to immunity for himself."So great is the present lucidity of the
public mind that it is apparent that had
Mr. Roosevelt been nominated at Chi-
cago his election would have presently
been seen to be hopeless. Far more
hopeless than the election of Mr. Bryan
now appears to dispassionate and com-
petent observers. We are not altogether
sure that Mr. Roosevelt himself shares
this opinion, and yet at the same time,
we should not be surprised to learn that
it is an opinion which he formed before
we formed it, and even long before it
dawned upon any one else. Far be it from
us to impeach Mr. Roosevelt's instincts
as a politician."The New York Tribune takes up the
cudgels in behalf of Mr. Taft against the
attacks made by Mr. Augustus Van
Wyck, in the following terms:"Mr. Taft," complains Mr. Augustus
Van Wyck, ex-justice of the Supreme
Court of this State and one-time Demo-
cratic candidate for governor, "has done
nothing and has said nothing since his
nomination to mark him as a strong man
of definite views."Now, isn't that too bad? It is a world
of plies that the very day after his
nomination Mr. Taft didn't proclaim his
belief that two and two made four. That
would have stamped him at once as a
man of definite views, or at least as one
who had defied the nations of the earth to
confute his proposition that twelve inches
made one foot. Thus he would have
proved himself a strong man.As it is, Mr. Van Wyck turns away
from his weakness and vagueness in
sorrow and despair and seeks consolation
in contemplation of the strength and definite
views of Mr. Bryan, that stalwart and
having stated his position, he has de-
clared that he will not waver or change his
attitude on any subject, and whose views have
never been for a single moment a matter
of doubt.Mr. Van Wyck is in good company. We
recall that about a month after Appomattox
Brevet Corporal Bellissarius Tubbs
complained that since the surrender of
Lee Gen. Grant had done nothing to mark
himself as a strong man of definite views.The Buffalo Express thus explains the
attitude of Gov. Hughes. "A press dis-
patch says: 'Gov. Hughes, it is known,
having publicly defined his position, be-
lieves that there is nothing more to be
said or done as far as he is concerned
for the present. He takes the position
that the attitude of the Republican voters
of this State regarding his announcement
should be made known, not in this way
the leaders can be guided by what they
believe public sentiment demands.' And
this is the course he will stick to. It is
the attitude he assumed toward the Pres-
ident. He will not waver over his stand to
obtain a nomination. He has announced
his willingness to serve; if the people
want him, well and good; if not, he is
entirely satisfied. That is 'Hughes poli-
tics' in a nutshell."The New York Tribune speaks thus of
the selection of a chairman for the Dem-
ocratic National Committee from New
York:Mr. Bryan is happy. He fairly ex-
claims at the thought that New York has
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Mr. Mack's ability to make political
situations doubtful of a State
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acter."

WANT FAIR PLAY

For Philippines as Well as Our Own
Country.

From the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Twenty thousand men paraded in Manila to de-
mand that Congress grant the Philippines the same
trade privileges as are granted to Porto Rico. Against
them we make no tariff distinction. They
are right, and it is contemptible for tobacco and
sugar men in this country to object.—New York In-
dependent.Not so bad as that. It is perfectly nat-
ural that the tobacco and sugar interests
should take a selfish view of the ques-
tion. Altruism is not to be looked for
among business people, and so far as our
observation goes every protected pro-
ducer in the United States is solicitous to
perpetuate the laws under which he en-
joys preference.But it is contemptible for a great gov-
ernment to pretend that their occupation
and rulership of a foreign country is
solely designed for the benefit of the alien
people—to educate them to be self-suf-
ficient, and self-governing—and at the
same time to place an embargo on the
products of their industry in order to
save a larger margin of profit to the
producers in the same lines. Discrimina-
tion against commerce originating in
the Philippines is utterly inconsistent
with our professed relations to that coun-
try. There is neither philanthropy nor
justice in discriminating against them in
favor of a class of our own manufactur-
ers who could not be materially affected
by competition with the Philippine sta-
ple. It is conceivable that the Republi-
can majority in Congress should entertain
a selfish plea against the dictates of
fair play. We should either frankly ad-
mit the purpose to treat the islands as
conquered provinces, or treat them as a
generous guardian would his infant
wards, or turn them loose to work out
their own destinies without further inter-
ference.

BRYAN NOT EASY.

No Thinking Men Regard His De-